

BA 1602
Wickcliffe (Maryvale School)
Sisters of Notre Dame
1501 Valley Road
Brooklandville, Md. 21022
Private

Wickcliffe is a spectacular rendition of a late medieval English house, as large as many of its prototypes. It is now used as a school.

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

BA 1602
X-887.410
Y-580.410
MAGI # 0316021702

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

1 NAME

HISTORIC

WICKCLIFFE

AND/OR COMMON

Maryvale

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

1501 Valley Road

CITY, TOWN

Brooklandville

VICINITY OF

Second
CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

STATE

Maryland

Baltimore
COUNTY

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

- ☐ DISTRICT
- ☒ BUILDING(S)
- ☐ STRUCTURE
- ☐ SITE
- ☐ OBJECT

OWNERSHIP

- ☐ PUBLIC
- ☒ PRIVATE
- ☐ BOTH
- PUBLIC ACQUISITION**
- ☐ IN PROCESS
- ☐ BEING CONSIDERED

STATUS

- ☒ OCCUPIED
- ☐ UNOCCUPIED
- ☐ WORK IN PROGRESS
- ACCESSIBLE**
- ☒ YES: RESTRICTED
- ☐ YES: UNRESTRICTED
- ☐ NO

PRESENT USE

- ☐ AGRICULTURE
- ☐ MUSEUM
- ☐ COMMERCIAL
- ☐ PARK
- ☒ EDUCATIONAL
- ☐ PRIVATE RESIDENCE
- ☐ ENTERTAINMENT
- ☐ RELIGIOUS
- ☐ GOVERNMENT
- ☐ SCIENTIFIC
- ☐ INDUSTRIAL
- ☐ TRANSPORTATION
- ☐ MILITARY
- ☐ OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Sisters of Notre Dame

STREET & NUMBER

1501 Valley Road

CITY, TOWN

Brooklandville, Md.

VICINITY OF

Telephone #: 252-3366

STATE, zip code
21022

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Baltimore

Liber #: 5098

Folio #: 248

STREET & NUMBER

County Courts Building

CITY, TOWN

401 Bosley Avenue

Towson.

STATE

Maryland

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

DATE

☐ FEDERAL ☐ STATE ☐ COUNTY ☐ LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

7 DESCRIPTION

| CONDITION | |
|---|---------------------------------------|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT | <input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED |
| <input type="checkbox"/> GOOD | <input type="checkbox"/> RUINS |
| <input type="checkbox"/> FAIR | <input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED |

| CHECK ONE | CHECK ONE |
|--|---|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED (exterior) | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALTERED (interior) | <input type="checkbox"/> MOVED DATE _____ |

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

WICKCLIFFE is a large and carefully-designed replica of a late medieval English house, a transitional period when many vestiges were retained of the earlier fortifications yet one which allowed the use of many windows. WICKCLIFFE was designed by Wilson L. Smith, a Baltimore architect, and built about 1912.

The picturesque and irregular structure is of rubble stone with cast-stone trim. Basically expressed as two storeys most of the polygonal towers rise three storeys and an attic storey under the steep roof over the entire structure is masked by a crenelated parapet. The principal entrance facade is the north and the south facade faces the valley, a vista heavily enclosed by the wooded slopes. A crenelated porte-cochere shelters the principal entrance, more or less centered in the north facade and a great mullioned window rises above it, flanked by narrow polygonal crenelated towers. A major wing extends north from the east end, the inside corner marked by a secondary entrance in a low polygonal tower and a broad polygonal tower rises in two stages high above the turn toward the outside corner. The openings in the porte-cochere and doors are four-centered and they are embellished with cast-stone heraldic ornament and label lintels. Windows generally are paired or grouped in larger units with cast-stone mullions; glazing is rectangular set in lead cames. The many chimneys which rise above the roof have separately-expressed flues in ornamental terra-cotta of varying patterns.

The principal stair rises above the entrance, the great mullioned window lighting the landing and halls of both storeys. The principal rooms of the first storey have wall paneling, doors, ceilings, mantels, lighting fixtures and other details carefully designed and authentically detailed in the Tudor period. The details of each room are slightly different. A Great Hall is centered south of the entrance and staircase. The Dining Room, now adapted as a Chapel, is to the east and a Library is to the west. Farther to the west is a Game and Trophy Room with exposed stone walls. A small Breakfast Room is immediately west of the staircase.

The northeast wing is the Service Wing where details are of the simplest types characteristic of the early twentieth century

WICKCLIFFE

1602

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period of its construction.

The second storey detailing is much simpler than the first, recalling the very late eighteenth and very early nineteenth century, as though the late medieval house had been modernized in that period. The Tudor detailing is only in the stair hall.

In the basement, which extends beneath the entire house, were wine cellars, the laundry and other service features; these spaces have been adapted as the school cafeteria, shops, etc.

A small formal walled garden is at the west end of the house and the southerly slope is developed in a series of falls and terraces with formal plantings. A stone garage is east of the service wing, its doors within four-centered arches; its other detailing recalls that of the house. The property is very successfully adapted as a school.

8 SIGNIFICANCE

| PERIOD | | AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW | | | |
|---|--|--|---|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC | <input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC | <input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING | <input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> RELIGION | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499 | <input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC | <input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION | <input type="checkbox"/> LAW | <input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599 | <input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE | <input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS | <input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE | <input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699 | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION | <input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY | <input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799 | <input type="checkbox"/> ART | <input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING | <input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC | <input type="checkbox"/> THEATER | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899 | <input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE | <input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT | <input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY | <input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION | |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900- | <input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS | <input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY | <input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT | <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY) | |
| | | <input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION | | | |

| | |
|---------------------------|-------------------|
| SPECIFIC DATES | BUILDER/ARCHITECT |
| STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE | |

Designed by Wilson L. Smith of Baltimore and built about 1912 WICKCLIFFE is a spectacular rendition of a late medieval English house, as large as many of its prototypes. Its correct exterior detailing, the correct detailing of its principal spaces within, its walled formal garden and its spectacular hilltop site give the visitor a convincingly English experience.

For over 130 years, private schools have found a receptive climate in the Green Spring Valley. Historically, the area sponsored one private school at a time. Since most were operated by the rectors of St. Thomas' Episcopal Church, each change in clergy resulted in the establishment of another "new" school. Today the area has a number of private schools co-existing together, several of which have continued the tradition of being church-affiliated institutions.

One example is the Maryvale School which came to the Green Spring Valley in the mid twentieth century. The Baltimore Province of the Sisters of Notre Dame de Namur purchased in 1945, Wickcliffe, the private home of DR. and Mrs. Walter F. Wickes located at the north-eastern end of the Valley. On this 180 acres, the Catholic organization established a school for the education of young girls and boys from pre-primary through eighth grade. The preparatory school for Trinity College was for girls of high school age.

The property, once part of the historic Brooklandwood estate, had been purchased by Dr. Wickes in 1912. He hired the Baltimore architect Wilson L. Smith, to build him a stone residence modeled after Warwick Castle in England. Completed in 1916, it took two years to finish at the cost of over \$200,000⁴. The house attracted a great deal of interest at the time, both because of its Tudor-style architecture and because it was reportedly the "largest private residence in this part of the Country" at that time. The entrance hall itself measured 32 x 44 feet.⁵

As with any home going converted into a new use, Wickcliffe underwent some alterations for its new function as a private school. On the first floor, the former breakfast room was adapted into a dining room for students; today it is used by the faculty. Originally the numerous rooms were utilized as classrooms.

Despite its size, it was soon evident that the castle had inherent inadequacies in meeting educational needs. Thus a modern building was added to the campus which provided more classroom space,⁷ a chemistry laboratory and lecture room and a auditorium-gymnasium.

Wickcliffe

(Maryvale School)

Footnotes

1

For a more detailed accounting of schools in the Green Spring Valley, see Volume One, Chapter Seven "Education" in Dawn F. Thomas and Robert W. Barnes, The Green Spring Valley: Its History and Heritage, 2 vols. (Baltimore: Maryland Historical Society, 1978).

2

Baltimore County Land Records (BCLR), Liber. 5098, fol. 248 Towson Court House, Towson, Maryland; "Maryvale-Maryland's Warwick Castle," Baltimore Sun, 9 May 1959.

3

BCLR, Liber WPC 406 fol. 2188, Towson.

4

"New Home in Valley," Baltimore American, 21 October 1913; "To Build In Valley," Baltimore American, 25 September 1915.

5

"Maryvale-Maryland's Warwick Castle."

6

Ibid.; "Maryvale," mimeographed article (c. 1975) on the school made available by Sister Rita McLaughlin, principal.

7

See note 5.

Bibliography

Thomas, Dawn F. and Robert W. Barnes. The Green Spring Valley: Its History and Heritage, 2 vols. Baltimore: Maryland Historical Society, 1978

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Dawn F. Thomas and Robert W. Barnes; The Green Spring Valley, Its History and Heritage, 2 vols. (Baltimore, Maryland Historical Society, 1978)

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY _____

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE

COUNTY

STATE

COUNTY

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

James T. Wollon, Jr., A.I.A. / Dawn F. Thomas, Research Historian 2-14-80

ORGANIZATION

DATE

Valleys Planning Council

828-7807

STREET & NUMBER

TELEPHONE

212 Washington Avenue

Maryland

CITY OR TOWN

STATE

Towson

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature, to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 Supplement.

The Survey and Inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

RETURN TO: Maryland Historical Trust
The Shaw House, 21 State Circle
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
(301) 267-1438





BA 1602

Wickcliffe

Maryvale

School

Valley Rd.

JTW

8-21-79

Md. Hist.Tr

from NW